

This record is a partial extract of the original cable. The full text of the original cable is not available.

140558Z Mar 02

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ACTION INR-00

INFO	LOG-00	NP-00	AF-00	A-00	ACQ-00	CIAE-00	USNW-00
	DODE-00	DS-00	EUR-00	UTED-00	VC-00	TEDE-00	LAB-01
	VCE-00	DCP-01	NSAE-00	IRM-00	TEST-00	USIE-00	EPAE-00
	IIP-00	DSCC-00	DRL-02	NFAT-00	SAS-00	/004W	
					-----74458A	140608Z	/38

FM AMEMBASSY HARARE
TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 1203
INFO NSC WASHDC
AMEMBASSY PRETORIA
AMEMBASSY LUSAKA
AMEMBASSY WINDHOEK
AMEMBASSY GABORONE
AMEMBASSY LILONGWE
AMEMBASSY LONDON

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SIPDIS

AF/PD FOR COX AND ROBERTSON, AF/S FOR KRAFT AND
SCHLACHTER, AF/RA FOR SWANN, INR/R/MR, NSC FOR JENDAYI
FRAZER

E.O. 12958: N/A

TAGS: [Z1](#) [PREL](#) [PHUM](#)

SUBJECT: MEDIA REACTION ZIMBABWE DECIDES; HARARE

[11.](#) UNDER HEADLINE "GOVERNMENT DESPERATE TO WIN
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ELECTION BY ANY MEANS," THE INDEPENDENT DAILY "THE
DAILY NEWS" DEDICATED ITS MARCH 13 EDITORIAL TO
CRITICIZING REGIONAL OBSERVERS FOR BEING PARTISAN IN
THE JUST ENDED PRESIDENTIAL POLL. EXCERPTS:

"THE VERIFICATION OF THE BALLOT BOXES AND PAPERS
BEGAN YESTERDAY, BUT IT WAS MERELY THE BEGINNING OF
AN EXERCISE IN CONFIRMING THE EXTENT TO WHICH THE
WEEKEND PRESIDENTIAL POLL WAS FLAWED. JUST ABOUT
EVERYTHING REGARDING THIS ELECTION PROCESS -
OBSERVERS INCLUDED - HAS BEEN FLAWED. CURIOUSLY
ALL THE OBSERVER MISSIONS THAT WERE FAVORED BY THE
STATE MEDIA PROCLAIMED THE PROCESS FREE AND FAIR,
EVEN IN THE FACE OF THEIR OWN COLLEAGUES BEING
ATTACKED. . . IT IS DIFFICULT TO ESCAPE THE
CONCLUSION THAT THESE GROUPS OF OBSERVERS WERE
INSTRUCTED BY THE RULING PARTIES OR THEIR
GOVERNMENTS TO PRONOUNCE FREE AND FAIR, WHEN THEY
SET OUT FOR HARARE. IN THE CASE OF THE SOUTH
AFRICAN OBSERVER DELEGATION. . . SUCH A VIEW WOULD
BE PROMOTED BY A BELIEF THAT PRONOUNCING A 'STOLEN
ELECTION' IN ZIMBABWE WILL RESULT IN A CRISIS OF
THE TYPE WITNESSED IN MADAGASCAR AND A FLOOD OF
PEOPLE FLEEING TO SOUTH AFRICA. IT WOULD BE IN THE
INTEREST OF SOUTH AFRICA NOT TO CONDEMN THE PROCESS
AND, THEREFORE, CONTAIN THE LIKELIHOOD OF FALLOUT.
A SECOND CONSIDERATION THAT LEADS TO THE ASSUMPTION
THAT THE SOUTH AFRICAN OBSERVER MISSION APPEARS TO
BE ACTING ON THE INSTRUCTION OF THE AFRICAN
NATIONAL CONGRESS (ANC) OF SOUTH AFRICA IS THE
COMPARISON OF THE LEVEL OF VIOLENCE IN THAT COUNTRY
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TO WHAT IS HAPPENING IN ZIMBABWE. . . IN CONTRAST,
HOWEVER, THE EUROPEAN UNION (EU) AMBASSADORS HAVE
IDENTIFIED VIOLENCE AND THE GOVERNMENT'S EFFORTS TO
CHEAT ITS WAY TO AN ELECTORAL VICTORY AND DECLARED
'THE OPPOSITION DID NOT HAVE EQUAL OPPORTUNITY WITH
THE GOVERNMENT, VOTERS DID NOT HAVE SUFFICIENT
ACCESS TO POLLING STATIONS, AND THERE WAS NOT
ENOUGH MONITORING.' THE OPPOSITION HAS HAD TO
FIGHT EVERY INCH OF THIS ELECTORAL MILE, THAT IT
WOULD BE EMBARRASSING FOR ANYONE OF ANY PROBITY NO
TO HAVE NOTICED HOW FLAWED THIS EXERCISE WAS. . .
.THE GOVERNMENT HAS SHOWN ITS DETERMINATION TO WIN
THIS ELECTION BY HOOK OR CROOK. . . ."

[12.](#) UNDER HEADLINE "PROPHETS OF DOOM PUT TO SHAME,"
THE
GOVERNMENT-CONTROLLED DAILY "THE HERALD" DEDICATED
THE MARCH 13 EDITORIAL TO CRITICIZE THE UNITED
STATES GOVERNMENT FOR WANTING TO INTERFERE IN
ZIMBABWE'S INTERNAL AFFAIRS. EXCERPTS FOLLOW:

"AGAINST ALL ODDS, ZIMBABWEANS TURNED OUT IN THEIR THOUSANDS TO VOTE IN THE THREE-DAY PRESIDENTIAL POLL. . . THE PROPHETS OF DOOM, WHO WERE PREDICTING VIOLENCE AND MAYHEM DURING THE ACTUAL VOTING PROCESS, HAVE BEEN PUT TO SHAME AS ZIMBABWEANS CONDUCTED THEMSELVES IN A MOST EXEMPLARY MANNER. ALMOST THE ENTIRE WESTERN WORLD WAS BANKING ON A CATASTROPHE HAPPENING IN ZIMBABWE WITH DEAD BODIES LITTERING THE STREETS, GUN-TOTING MILITIAS PATROLLING THE SUBURBS AND A STATE OF
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EMERGENCY PREVAILING IN THE COUNTRY. HOWEVER, THE HIGHLY SOUGHT AFTER STORY HAS TURNED OUT TO BE A DAMP SQUIB AS ZIMBABWEANS HAVE DEMONSTRATED A MATURE DEMOCRATIC DISPENSATION. THERE WAS A LOT OF ANTICIPATION THAT THE CLOSER OF POLLING ON MONDAY NIGHT BEFORE SOME PEOPLE HAD VOTED, AFTER THE EXTENSION, WOULD TRIGGER AN ORGY OF VIOLENCE. BUT THAT FAILED TO MATERIALIZE, FURTHER DAMPENING THE EXPECTATIONS OF BRITAIN, THE U. S. AND THE EU, AMONG OTHERS, WHO HAVE BEEN DESPERATELY LOOKING FOR AN EXCUSE TO DISCREDIT ZIMBABWE'S ELECTION. THE AMERICANS EVEN WENT TO THE EXTENT OF ISSUING TWO SO-CALLED STRONG WARNINGS AGAINST THE RULING ZANU PF GOVERNMENT FOR THE ALLEGED DISENFRANCHISEMENT OF URBAN VOTERS AND THE QUESTIONING OF SOME AMERICAN DIPLOMATS BY THE POLICE. THERE WAS ABSOLUTELY NO BASIS FOR ISSUING SUCH WARNINGS EXCEPT WHAT WE SEE AS A NAKED ATTEMPT TO CREATE A SITUATION. THIS ALSO REVEALS GROWING DESPERATION BY THE WEST AS IT FAILS TO INFLUENCE EVENTS IN ZIMBABWE. . .IT IS INDEED AN INSULT TO ALL ZIMBABWEANS TO BE TOLD WHAT

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	IIP-00	DSCC-00	DRL-02	NFAT-00	SAS-00	/004W	
				-----74459C	140608Z	/38	

P 140558Z MAR 02
FM AMEMBASSY HARARE
TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 1204
INFO NSC WASHDC
AMEMBASSY PRETORIA
AMEMBASSY LUSAKA
AMEMBASSY WINDHOEK
AMEMBASSY GABORONE
AMEMBASSY LILONGWE
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UNCLAS SECTION 02 OF 02 HARARE 000667

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TO DO BY THE AMERICANS WHOSE OWN ELECTIONS LEFT A
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LOT TO BE DESIRED AND COULD NEVER STAND ANYWHERE IN THE WORLD AS A MODEL OF DEMOCRACY OR FREE AND FAIR ELECTIONS. WE ALSO FIND OBJECTIONABLE THE UNITED STATES' THREAT AGAINST ZIMBABWE FOLLOWING THE QUESTIONING OF AMERICAN DIPLOMATS. . .ARE THEY INSINUATING THAT AMERICAN DIPLOMATS ARE GODS WHO CANNOT BE QUESTIONED EVEN IF THEY ARE SUSPECTED OF BREAKING THE LAW? WE THINK NOT. WHAT THIS SIMPLY SHOWS IS THAT THE WESTERN WORLD IS UNASHAMEDLY TRYING TO PICK A FIGHT WITH THE ZIMBABWEAN GOVERNMENT BUT HAS SO FAR FAILED TO FIND ANY JUSTIFIABLE REASON TO DO SO. THAT IS WHY THEY ARE CLUTCHING AT ALMOST ANYTHING, NO MATTER HOW TRIVIAL, TO THREATEN THE COUNTRY. THE TURNOUT IN THIS ELECTION HAS SENT CLEAR SIGNALS TO THE WESTERN WORLD THAT ZIMBABWE IS NOT A COLONY AND WILL NOT BE SWAYED BY SUCH BLATANT THREATS. IN DENIGRATING THE ZIMBABWEAN GOVERNMENT THE WESTERN WORLD DOES NOT SEEM TO REALIZE IS THAT IT DIRECTLY INSULTING THE PEOPLE OF ZIMBABWE. THAT IS WHY THEY HAVE TURNED OUT IN THEIR HUGE NUMBERS TO SHOW THE WORLD THAT

THEY CANNOT BE TAKEN FOR GRANTED AND WILL STAND BY
THEIR LEADERSHIP, WHICH THEY VOTED INTO POWER TO
LEAD AND GUIDE THEM."

SULLIVAN

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